

City of Reading
2013 Charter Review Commission
Meeting Agenda
September 4, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 PM City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Ann Sheehan at 6:00 PM. Members present were Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz and Messer's. Anewalt, Cituk, Corcoran, Denbowski, Reese, Slifko, and Spencer. Members absent were Chairperson Rosemary Frank-Vitale and Mr. Carl Geffkin. Also present was Eron Lloyd, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Charles D. Younger, City Solicitor, and Paul Janssen, Charter Review Commission Facilitator,

Upon Motion of Mr. Cituk and seconded by Anewalt the Minutes of August 21, 2013 were approved with the following changes: Mr. Denbowski's spelling of his name was corrected and Mayor Vaughn Spencer was listed as a member of the Commission

There was no Public Comment.

Upon motion of Mr. Slifko and seconded by Mr. Corcoran, the Bills Payable List for September 4, 2013 was unanimously approved.

The commission members discussed the "Home Rule Law and the Reading City Charter" document developed by Mr. Slifko during the last Charter Review Commission in 2003, and discussed the simple FAQ's developed by Mr. Janssen. With revisions in the scope of questions, Mr. Janssen noted that he would draft answers for the next meeting.

The Commission continued discussion on options to secure public input outside of attendance at Commission Meeting. It was noted that the Commission has to wrap up all work and make formal recommendations by January 24, 2014. A number of organizations were identified including the NAACP, The Latino Council, Berks County Community Foundation, Mike Toledo, Mary Elvorado, The League of Women Voters, and the Board of Realtors. The commission noted that Page 11 of the 2002 Review Commission report has a list of individuals interviewed during that process. The Commission agreed to further discuss the issue on the 18th if time permits, however, commission members should develop a list of individuals and

organizations for consideration at that time. The Commission members indicated that they felt a “focus group” process would be effective for citizen interviews as opposed to one on one. Members were asked to think about potential individuals or consultants who could conduct the group interviews.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeframe of completing Commission work by January 24, 2014. Commission members agreed to try to commit to attending to meetings as follows if needed. October 2, 16, 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18, and January 8, 15, and 22. The Commission would determine the need for the additional meetings following the October 16 meeting.

Mr. Janssen noted that he would work on a written survey for organization input for future review. Also, Mr. Lloyd noted that the Charter Board would be in attendance at the next meeting on September 18, 2013. He further noted that he had secured Wi-Fi accessibility for future Commission meetings.

There were no citizen comments.

There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Corcoran and seconded by Mr. Anewalt the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Janssen
Facilitator